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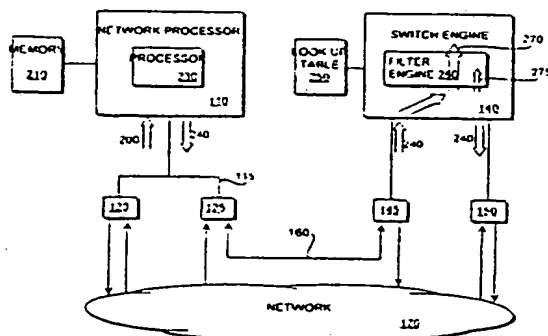
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FLEXIBLE HIGH SPEED COMMUNICATION



(57) Abstract: Two data communication platforms are operating as a combination. In one embodiment, a data signal formatted according to a data communication protocol is received at a first data communication platform. The first data communication platform operates to determine if the data communication protocol is supported by the first data communication platform. If it is determined that the data communication protocol is supported by the first data communication platform, the first data communication platform indicates to a second data communication platform to receive the data signal at a by-pass path of a filter engine. As a result, fast data signal communication capabilities of protocols developed and implemented as ASICs are combined with the flexibility in developing and adding new protocols implemented as software needed by more complex networked computer devices. In one embodiment, a second data signal formatted according to a second data communication protocol is received at the first data communication platform. The first data communication platform operates to determine if the second data communication protocol is supported by the second data communication platform. The first data communication platform operates to determine if the second data communication protocol is supported by the second data communication platform. If it is determined that the data communication protocol is supported by the second data communication platform, the first data communication platform indicates to the second communication platform to receive the data signal at a filter engine path of the filter engine.



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*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internat Application No

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## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 00 30262 A (STEENBERG KIM ; STEEN SOEREN (DK); DATA INTERNATIONAL A S I (DK); V) 25 May 2000 (2000-05-25) abstract page 37, line 32 -page 38, line 32 figure 3	1-4,7,8, 10-13, 16,17,19
X	WO 00 05853 A (NORTEL NETWORKS CORP ; YEH CHIANG (US)) 3 February 2000 (2000-02-03)	1-4,6-8, 10-13, 16,17,19
Y	abstract  page 12, line 18 -page 15, line 2 claims 1-3 figure 2	5,9,14, 15,18,20

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## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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